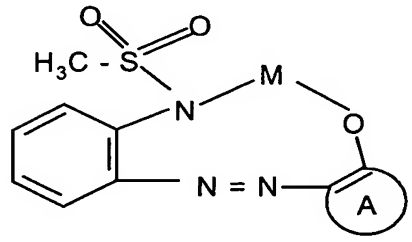
Amendments to the Claims

1) (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of the general formula (I)

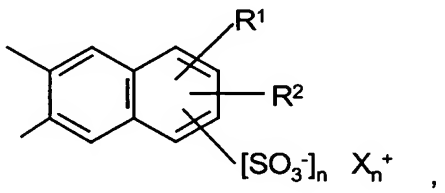


(I)

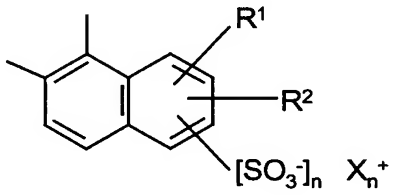
~~where~~ wherein

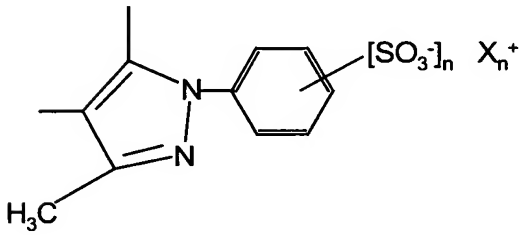
M ~~represents~~ is two hydrogen atoms or one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Zn and Al;

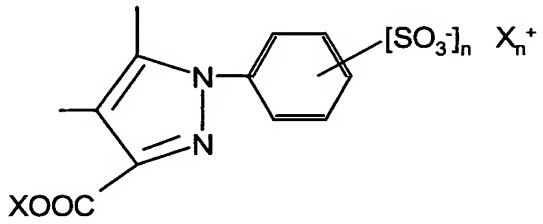
A is



,

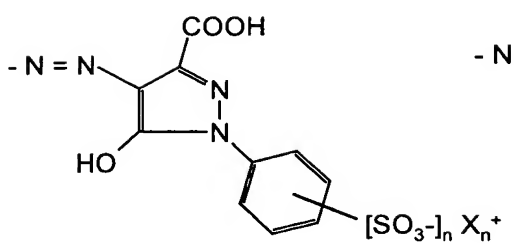


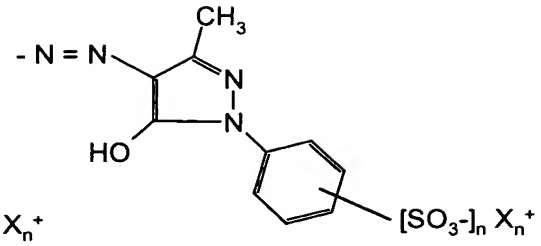


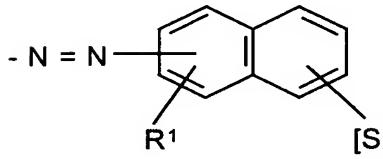


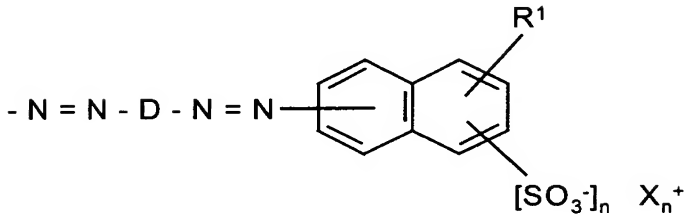
R^1 is H, OH or -NH-$(CH_2)_a$-$SO_3^-X^+$ where a is from 1 to 6;

R^2 is H or a radical of the formulae



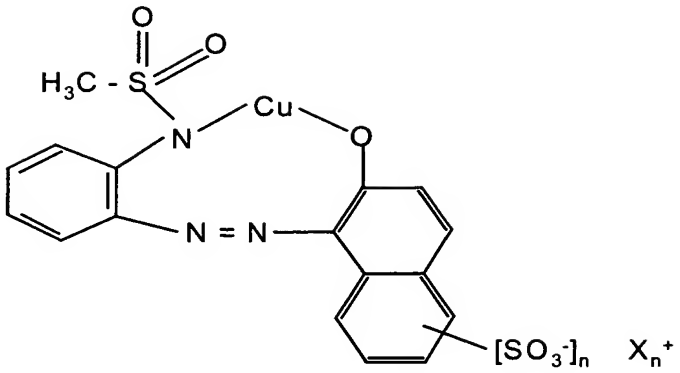




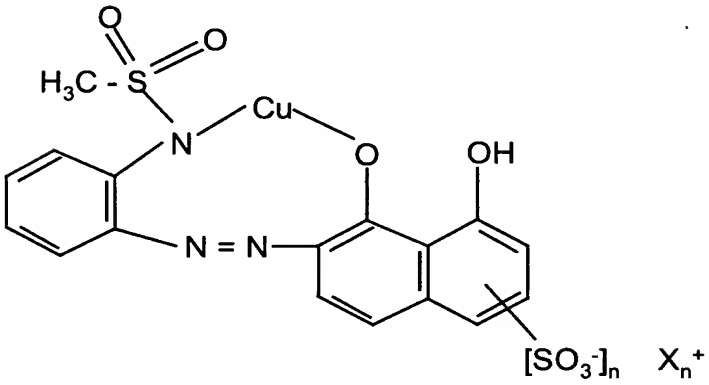


D is C_6H_4, $C_6H_3(OH)$ or $C_6H_3(OCH_3)$;
X is H, alkali metal, NH_4, C_1-C_{18}-alkyl-NH_3, $(C_1$-C_{18}-alkyl$)_2NH_2$, $(C_1$-C_{18}-alkyl$)_3NH$, $(C_1$-C_{18}-alkyl$)_3CNH_3$, $(C_1$-C_{18}-alkyl$)_2CHNH_3$, or $(C_1$-C_{18}-alkyl$)_4N$,
and
n is from 1 to 4.

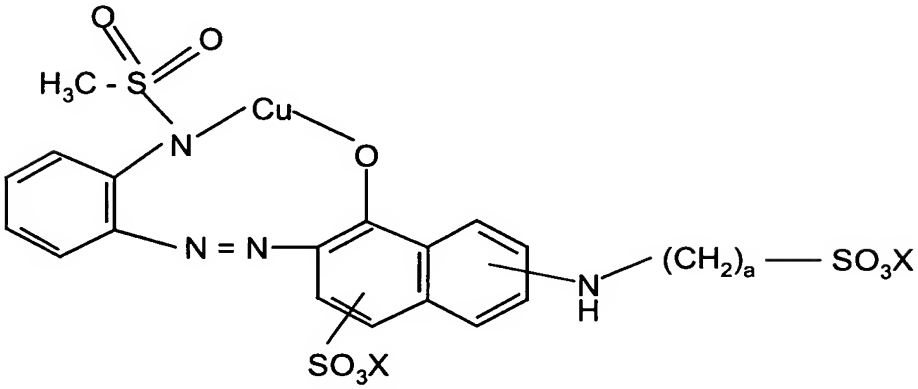
2) (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ having the formulae (IIa) to (IIf)



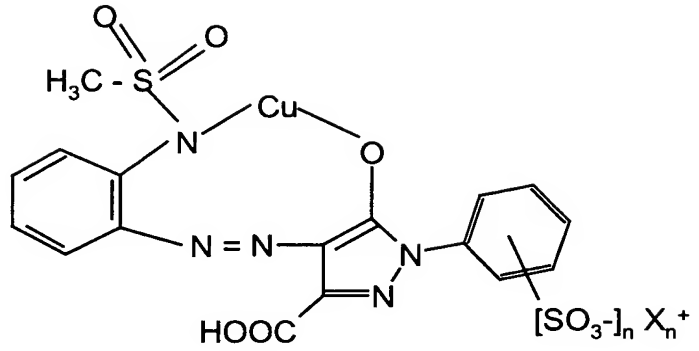
(IIa)



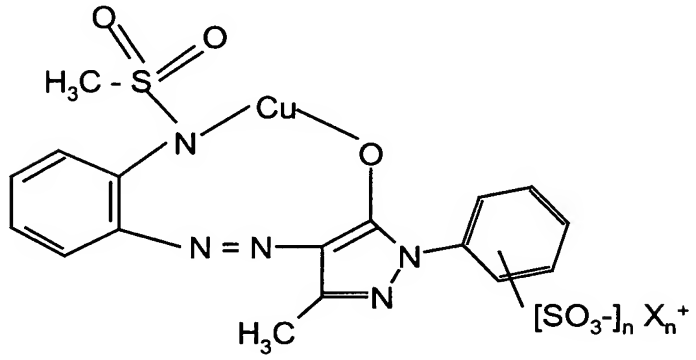
(IIb)



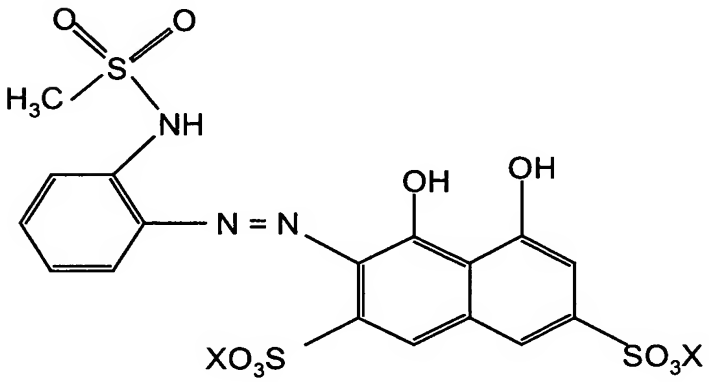
(IIc)



(IId)

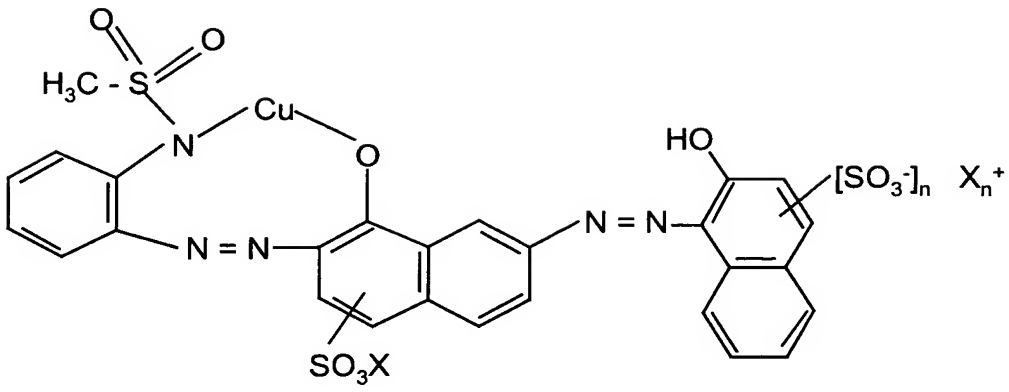


(IIe)

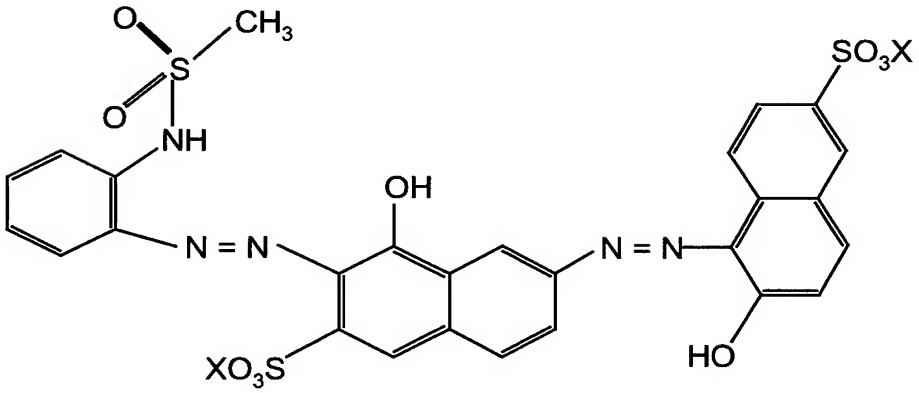


(IIf)

3) (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ having the formulae (IIIa) or (IIIb)

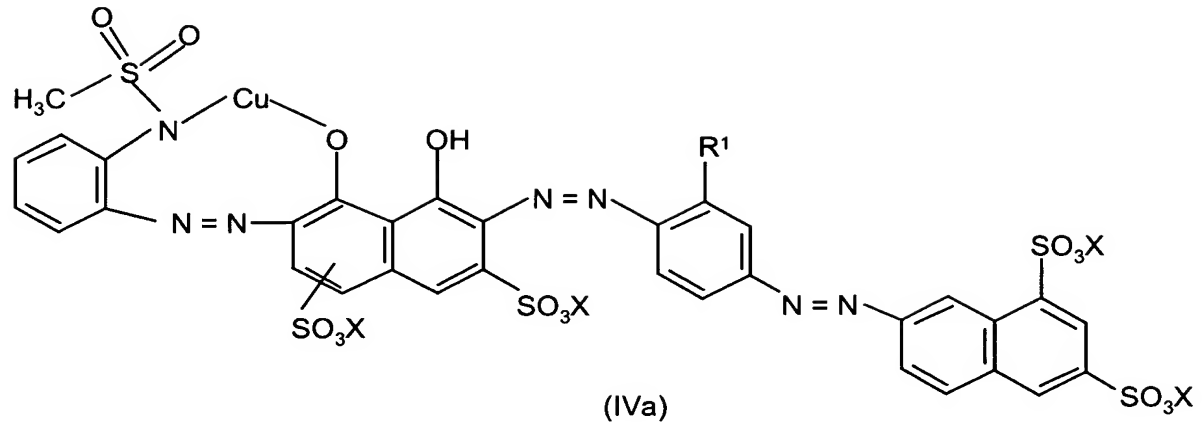


(IIIa)

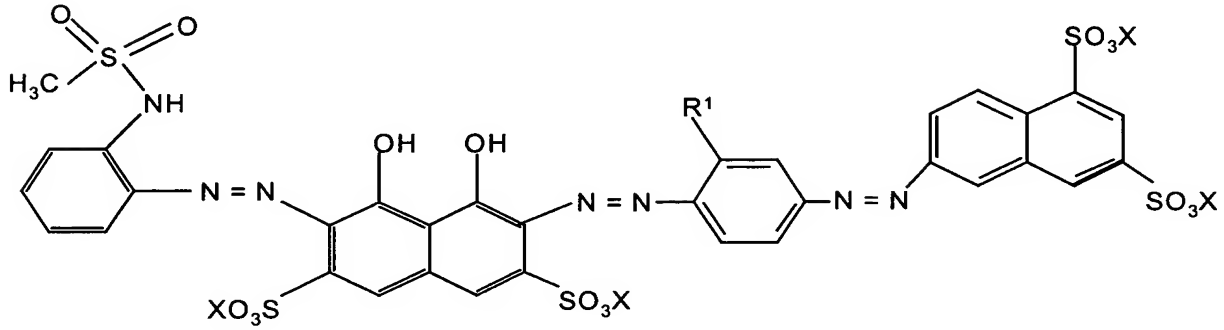


(IIIb)

4) (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ having the formula (IVa) or (IVb)



(IVa)



(IVb)

5) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4, which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising the steps of diazotizing a 2-di(methanesulfonyl)amidoaniline ~~being diazotized, the resulting~~ to form a diazonium salt, coupling the diazonium salt ~~being coupled~~ with a coupling component corresponding to ring system A, and detaching one of the two methanesulfonamide groups ~~being detached and optionally the resulting~~to form the azo compound ~~being reacted with a Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Zn or Al salt~~.

6) (Currently Amended) ~~The use of~~An article colored by a compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4 for dyeing and printing~~ claim 1, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic fiber materials, ~~for recording script and images on~~ recording media, ~~for pulp coloring~~ paper, cellulosic

materials, ~~or celluloses and also as a colorant in~~ printing inks, lacquers, paints, plastics, rubber materials, office articles, wood coatings, wood ~~and~~ cleaners and artists' colors.

7) (Currently Amended) ~~The use of claim 6 as a~~A colorant ~~in~~ for inkjet inks ~~and~~ or electrophotographic toners comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1.

8) (Currently Amended) A recording fluid ~~including~~ comprising 0.1 to 50% by weight ~~in total~~ of at least one compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4 and also optionally of a shading colorant, reckoned as dry weight, 0 to 99% by weight of water and 0.5 to 99.5% by weight of organic solvent and/or humectant~~ claim 1.

9) (Currently Amended) ~~The use of~~An ink set comprising a recording fluid as claimed in claim 8 ~~in an ink set consisting of the colors black, yellow, cyan, magenta, optionally orange and optionally green~~.

10) (New) The process as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the step of reacting the azo compound with a Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Zn or Al salt.

11) (New) The recording fluid as claimed in claim 8, further comprising 0 to 99% by weight of water and 0.5 to 99.5% by weight of at least one of an organic solvent and humectant.

12) (New) The ink set as claimed in claim 9, further comprising 8 the colors black, yellow, cyan and magenta.

13) (New) The ink set as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the color orange.

14) (New) The ink set as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the color green.